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Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6186

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4309

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, KU
SUBJ: REPORTED PLANS AND PRIORITIES OF NEW CABINET

REF: KUWAIT 4163

1. FIRST MEETING OF NEW KUWAITI CABINET HELD SEPT 7, AFTER WHICH MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSAIN BRIEFED PRESS ON CABINET PRIORITIES AND PLANS. KUWAITI PRESS (AL RAI AL AM, SEPT 8) REPORTED HUSSAIN SAYING THAT CABINET SEES ISSUE OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AS IN "FOREFRONT," AND THAT GOK WILL WORK WITH "ALL SINCERE PEOPLE" TO RESOLVE ISSUE, NOTING THAT ALL GOK "POLICY LINES," BOTH EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL, ARE CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. HUSSAIN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CABINET WILL ALSO GIVE PRIORITY TO "RAPID REVISION" OF CONSTITUTION TO "ACCOMPLISH EVERYONE'S DESIRES" AND IT WILL START IMMEDIATELY TO EFFECT REFORMS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DESIRES EXPRESSED BY CROWN PRINCE IN AUGUST 31 SPEECH (REFTEL, PARA. 5).

2. AMONG DECREES REPORTEDLY PLANNED ARE THOSE WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:
A. TRANSFER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PLANNING BOARD, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE, TO THE NEW PLANNING MINISTRY.
B. TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND
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LABOR TO THE NEW MINISTRY OF LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE

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AFFAIRS.
C. TRANSFER THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER ON ISLAMIC AFFAIRS (FATWA) AND LEGISLATION FROM THE CABINET STAFF TO THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS.

D. VEST THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS WITH THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DISSOLVED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN LINE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION REQUIRING TRANSFER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FUNCTIONS TO CABINET WHEN ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED.

3. COMMENT: PLANNING BOARD HAS FOR PAST YEAR OR SO BEEN WITHOUT A CHAIRMAN, AND IN THE PROCESS HAS LOST SOME OF ITS INFLUENCE. PLACING IT UNDER NEW MINISTER MAY RECTIFY THIS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT NEW PLANNING MINISTER ADASANI WAS MEMBER OF PLANNING BOARD FROM 1965 TO 1967, BEFORE EMBARKING ON DIPLOMATIC CAREER (AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THEN TO LEBANON).

4. CIVIL SERVICE OFFICIALS MAY BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT AS WELL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR AUTHORITY HAD BEEN OVERRIDDEN FREQ-UENTLY BY MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR, SALIM AL SABAH.
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